

W. J. F. J.  
21 Oct 94

Slottin

Myth:

Le Rousseau, adventure

like hero of a novel, is manfully  
toward an important destiny.

[The Hiroshima Myth. (No need for

Our leaders can be trusted to wield nuclear  
power and to use it judiciously, only in  
circumstances — which have existed, and may  
again — where it is essential, effective,  
necessary, legitimate.

the ones assumed did not occur,  
[Vs. : such circumstances have never existed,  
are extremely unlikely, and it is highly dangerous  
to trust/delegate to any human authorities the power  
with this power (whether to inflict damage on  
scale of WWII — 100/200 warheads — or much greater)]

OK, C, (From)

India?

trust the not to abuse it or control it or

not mis-use it (false claims: see Landings in Burma)



Hiroshima

Oct 21  
Willflint

- A - "Wf not use the Bomb?"  
B - Wf was there no discussion of non-use  
C - Wf were various means of <sup>or use?</sup>  
ending the war sooner, postponed  
until after the Bomb had been dropped?  
- Wf was no effort to end the  
war in May, full or half attempted?  
(despite being illegal)

(These means: giving assurance as  
The Emperor, and announcing SU entry,  
were seen - correctly - as more  
likely to end the the 1-2 Bombs;  
the first was essential (We. +  
(prob.) suff.) in with  
SU entry

May -

C: So Bomb could be used on a city,  
and discredited as <sup>motivated</sup> needed/legitimized by  
big goal of achieving f. surrender  
soonest and without invasion, and  
give credit for ending the war.

(SAC plan to use the Bomb, if possible, prolonged  
the war + the fighting on Okinawa - cost many US lives.)



- The story US public was told (by Stimson) as  
led to believe (earlier & later, by omission  
and suppression of relevant facts, and  
incomplete or false account of USG motives &  
beliefs) is false: the the Bomb <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>seen, correctly, as</sup> the only ~~way~~ <sup>way</sup>  
~~act of a more effective way to achieve~~  
US occupation & mil. gov of Japan, with  
US war trials (= f. surrender: not  
"unconditional") (Emperor with on trial or disposed)  
without US invasion. Nor was it seen as  
surrender or farthest alternative to invasion;  
it was preferred (as first step) - for other  
reasons.

- Why does/should this matter, to us, now?

(Correcting this false historical account  
and interpretation) [Apology? Shame/guilt/  
condemnation? Drive? "Truth"?]

- Because acceptance of this myth by US public  
[What would we do if it were true? Try to counteract  
wrong / harmful inferences from it, responses to it]

- wrongly diminishes the US sense of danger from  
continued US possession & threat (not just "bluff")  
of the Bomb, and from prolifer. in ways that make  
it more difficult to maintain pressure for change  
in <sup>US</sup> policy that would reduce danger.



- Should "we" apologize for Hiroshima? 3  
and/or  
(if not — for Tokyo? for Korea? Dresden?  
for S.B.? Berlin?  
Hamburg?)
- Reversed motives are not  
ignorable (?) — unless to justify cost of MP  
not